

Appln No. 09/694,079
Amdt date February 10, 2006
Reply to Office action of August 10, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 26-28, 33-43, and 49-74 were pending in this application when it was last examined. Claims 26, 28, 36, 40, 49, 52-57, 63-64, 67, and 71 have been amended. Claims 58-62 have been canceled. The amendments find full support in the original specification, claims, and drawings. No new matter has been added. In view of the above amendments and remarks that follow, reconsideration, reexamination, and an early indication of allowance of the now-pending claims 26-28, 33-43, 49-57, and 63-74 are respectfully requested.

The Examiner objects to claims 26, 36, 40, 66, and 67 due to certain informalities. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments of the claims now overcome this objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 26-28, 33-43, 49-56, and 58-63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaiser (U.S. Patent No. 6,615,408) in view of Wistendahl (U.S. Patent No. 6,496,981). Claim 57 is rejected as being unpatentable over Kaiser and Wistendahl in view of Blacketter (U.S. Patent No. 6,415,438). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claims 64-67, 71, 72, and 74 are rejected as being unpatentable over Wistendahl in view of Srinivasan et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0023436). Claims 68-70 and 73 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wistendahl and Srinivasan in view of Kaiser. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claim 28, as amended, recites "a video signal, mask data, and annotation data included in the broadcast signal" where "at least the mask data is compressed based a compression algorithm." Neither Kaiser nor Wistendahl teach or suggest including both mask data and annotation data in a broadcast signal, and much less, compressing the mask data based on a compression algorithm. Accordingly, claim 28 is now in condition for allowance.

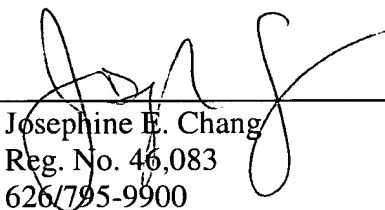
Claims 53 and 64 include limitations which are similar to the limitations of claim 28 which make claim 28 allowable. Accordingly, claims 53 and 64 are also in condition for allowance.

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Claims 26-27, 33-43, 49-52, 54-57, 63, and 65-74 are also in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowable base claim, and for the additional limitations that they contain. Specifically with respect to claim 54, claim 54 recites that "the mask data includes a timestamp transmitted with broadcast of the mask data." No such timestamps are actually included in the hot spot data disclosed in Wistendahl.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration, reexamination, and an early indication of allowance of the now pending claims 26-28, 33-43, 49-57, 63-74 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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